## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 09680 221812Z ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /065 W

-----021962 230401Z/13

R 221238Z JUN 78 FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2375 AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD AMEMBASSY JIDDA AMEMBASSY KABUL AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, AF, IN, SA

SUBJECT: FOREIGN SECRETARY TO VISIT AFGHANISTAN

- 1. ACCORDING TO THIS MORNING'S NEWSPAPERS, FOREIGN SECRETARY JAGAT MEHTA LEFT NEW DELHI TODAY ON A TWO-DAY VISIT TO KABUL. PRESS ACCOUNTS NOTE THAT HE IS THE FIRST HIGH-RANKING INDIAN OFFICIAL TO VISIT AFGHANISTAN SINCE THE APRIL 27 COUP AND THAT HE WAS INVITED BY HIS AFGHAN COUNTERPART.
- 2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH SOME NEWS STORIES THINK THAT ECONOMIC MATTERS WILL RANK HIGH ON MEHTA'S AGENDA IN KABUL, WE SUSPECT THAT HIS MAIN REASONS FOR GOING THERE ARE (1) TO REAFFIRM TO THE AFGHAN GOVT THE GOI'S DESIRE FOR CLOSE AND FRIENDLY TIES AND (2) POSSIBLY TO EXPLAIN TO THE AFGHANIS THE GOI'S EFFORTS TO PERSUADE OTHERS TO ADOPT A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE NEW REGIME IN KABUL. THIS MIGHT INVOLVE DISCUSSING PRIME MINISTER DESAI'S TALKS WITH THE LEADERS OF IRAN, THE UK AND THE US INSOFAR AS THEY CONCERNED AFGHANISTAN AND NATIONAL ISSUES. WE SHALL SEEK A MORE DEFINITIVE READOUT FROM MEA ON MEHTA'S RETURN. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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END COMMENT

3. THE PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT MEHTA WILL VISIT SAUDI ARABIA JUNE 26-29  $$\operatorname{BLOOD}$$ 

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## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 22 jun 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NEWDE09680
Document Source: CORE

**Document Unique ID: 00** Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A

Errors: N/A **Expiration:** 

Film Number: D780261-0719

Format: TEL From: NEW DELHI Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780630/aaaabafm.tel

Line Count: 60 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: ec91bf83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION NEA

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 05 may 2005 Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: N/A Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

**SAS ID**: 2248026 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: FOREIGN SECRETARY TO VISIT AFGHANISTAN

TAGS: PEPR, OVIP, AF, IN, SA, (MEHTA, JAGAT)
To: STATE ISLAMABAD

Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/ec91bf83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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